



The

FLASH

REBIRTH

4

SEP '05

JOHNS
VAN SCIVER



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REBIRTH



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BRUCE AND I USED TO COMPARE NOTES ON THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS LIST OF CRIMINALS WE DEALT WITH. WE'D TRY TO ONE-UP EACH OTHER.

TWO-FACE AND CAPTAIN COLD.

KILLER CROC AND GORILLA GRODD.

THE JOKER--

--AND THE REVERSE-FLASH.

A.K.A. PROFESSOR EGBARD THAWNE, A SCIENTIST OF ANALYTICAL DYNAMICS FROM THE 25TH CENTURY, AND A PREDATORY STALKER.

THAWNE SPENT HIS LIFE TRYING TO REPLICATE THE ACCIDENT THAT TRANSFORMED ME INTO THE FLASH. AND HE SUCCEEDED.

THEN HE CAME BACK IN TIME TO STUDY ME. TO BECOME ME. TO LEARN ABOUT MY SPEED.

AND LIKE A RAT IN A HAZE, THAWNE MADE ME RUN. HE THREATENED THE LIVES OF EVERYONE I LOVED. WHEN IT BECAME LIFE OR DEATH WHEN IT WAS HIM OR THEM. IN A MOMENT OF CONFUSION--

--I SNAPPED HIS NECK.

HE'S BACK, AND HE'S DIFFERENT.

HIS AFTERIMAGES SAVER AND GRIN, THEN DISAPPEAR AS HE INHALES THEM.

WHEN HE SPEAKS, IT CRACKLES WITH STATIC.

YOU'RE EARLY.



FOR
ONCE.

WALLY, JAY, BART,
IT SHOULD'VE TAKEN ONE OF
THEM DYING BEFORE YOU WERE
WILLING TO REJOIN THE SPEED
FORCE. THOUGH IN TRUTH, YOU
WERE SIMPLY CONVERTED INTO
A HIGHER POWER.

TRANSFORMED
INTO PURE
ENLIGHTENMENT.



I...
KILLED
YOU.

I HAVE
A RESURRECTION
OF MY OWN IN THE
DAYS AHEAD,
BARRY. THANKS TO
A GOOD FRIEND
OF YOURS.

YOU...



YOU
MURDERED
JOHNNY
QUICK!

BARRY,
WAIT--!

MM. YES.
JOHNNY QUICK, YOU
CAUGHT ME RED-HANDED.
NOW STOP THIS.

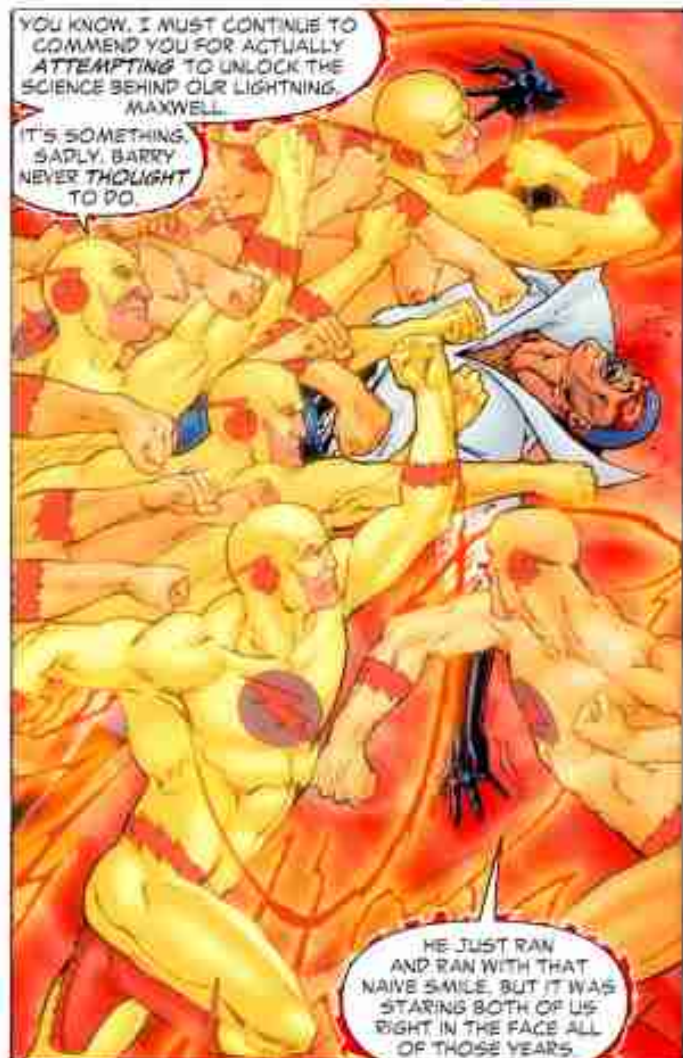


THIS IS
NOT A RACE TO SEE
WHO'S FASTER.



I AM.

AAHH!



THIS SEA OF RED LIGHT IS THE **NEGATIVE SPEED FORCE**, BARRY. WITH EVERY STEP I RUN, I GENERATE ITS CRIMSON FURY.

I AM ITS ENGINE.

AND MY LIGHTNING POISONS YOUR FAMILY THROUGH YOU.



UPON MY RETURN, YOU CAN IMAGINE MY UTTER **DISAPPOINTMENT** TO DISCOVER YOU'D SACRIFICED YOURSELF TO "SAVE" THE UNIVERSE.

HISTORY HAS A WAY OF DEFINING MEN BY A SINGLE ACT, AND YOU BECAME MUCH MORE THAN YOU EVER TRULY WERE. A **BORING LAB RAT** WAS ROMANTICIZED INTO THE MOST **SELFLESS HERO** OF HIS TIME.

YOU LEFT A LEGACY THAT THRIVED AND GREW. IT APPEARED THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO TO YOU. NO REVENGE TO BE HAD. YOUR STORY WAS OVER.

SO I THOUGHT.

LISTENING

ME.

TO BARRY?

ARE

YOU

TO



CLASS IS IN SESSION!



YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO KILL THEM WITH A TOUCH. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LIVE YOUR LAST DAYS IN GUILT. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS A MONSTER, NOT A MARTYR.

WHAT YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO DO WAS BURN OFF MY LIGHTNING—

--AND VENTURE HERE.

OR WAS YOUR "SACRIFICE" ANYTHING BUT? MAYBE YOU DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO BE BACK.

YOU COULDN'T FACE THE FACT THAT THE WORLD HAD MOVED ON.

I WASN'T DRIVEN BY EGO LIKE YOU, THAWNE.

BUT NOW I KNOW WHY I'VE FELT ON EDGE. YOU OUTRAN ME. YOU INFECTED ME.

YOU THINK IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THE VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN THE GOLDEN AND CRIMSON LIGHTNING?

YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA, DO YOU?

OH, BARRY. YOUR BUTTONS WERE ALWAYS SO EASY TO PUSH.

THEY HAVE BEEN SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING.

NOW, WHAT'S THAT OLD SAYING IN YOUR TIME PERIOD?

KRAA! WHAM!

IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT, YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF.

FALLVILLE, IOWA

BARRY WOULDN'T GIVE UP LIKE THAT.

I KNOW HE'S BEEN STRANGELY DISTANT, IRIS, BUT BARRY WASN'T GIVING UP. HE DIDN'T WANT TO RISK ANYONE'S LIFE BUT HIS OWN.

HE SAID YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

WE DO, SUPERMAN.

BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN WE'LL ACCEPT IT.

WHAT CAN WE DO, WALLY?

IT'S WHAT I CAN DO, IRIS. WHILE EVERYONE ELSE WORKS ON REBUILDING THIS LIGHTNING ROD, I'M GOING TO THE SPEED FORCE. I'M GOING TO BRING BARRY BACK.

YOU TOUCH BARRY AND YOU COULD END UP AGED TO DUST LIKE SAVITAR.

SUPERMAN SAID BARRY'S BLACK AURA WAS STRIPPED AWAY WHEN HE RAN.

EVEN SO, YOU KNOW THE KIND OF PULL THE SPEED FORCE HAS. YOU COULD BE AS LOST AS BARRY.

MAX NEVER GOT OUT, WALLY.

THEN I'LL BRING HIM BACK TOO. BART, AND JOHNNY QUICK.

WALLY...

I'VE ESCAPED THE SPEED FORCE BEFORE. JAY, AND I'LL ESCAPE IT AGAIN.

I'VE GOT LINDA.

A full-page comic book illustration of The Flash running through a storm. He is wearing his iconic red suit with a yellow lightning bolt on the chest and black accents. He is running towards the viewer, with his right leg forward and arms pumping. The background is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and numerous bright yellow lightning bolts striking around him. A large, bright yellow lightning bolt is visible near his right leg. The overall color palette is dominated by reds, yellows, and oranges, creating a sense of intense energy and speed.

AND AS LONG
AS I HAVE LINDA,
I'LL FIND MY
WAY BACK.

THE WEST FAMILY HOME.

IREY, YOU CHANGE OUT OF THAT UNIFORM RIGHT NOW!

BUT I WANT TO HELP UNCLE BARRY. MOM, BART GOT TO GO!

BART DIDN'T GET TO GO. HONEY, BART LEFT.

THEN I WANNA LEAVE TOO. I WANNA BE LIKE BART. BART'S COOL.

YOU HEARD YOUR FATHER. YOU SHOULDN'T USE YOUR POWERS RIGHT NOW. IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS.

THEN THEY MIGHT NEED MY HELP. MOM! I CAN DO THINGS THEY CAN'T!

ALL YOU CAN DO IS WALK THROUGH STUFF. I BET BART THINKS THAT'S STUPID.

I SURE DO.

IT'S NOT...

IT'S NOT STUPID!

IREY!

SHE JUST RUINED MY GAME.

JAI.

WHAT, MOM? YOU WANTED HER TO STOP.

AND THAT DIDN'T HELP.

IT'S NOT STUPID. I--
Huh--I LIKE WHAT I CAN DO.

ZZZZZ

Hm.
I GUESS THERE'S ONE THING YOU CAN'T RUN THROUGH.



THE SPEED FORCE

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. AND MRS. WEST.

IT'S A BOY AND A GIRL.

YOU'VE JUST HAD TWINS.

BART!
BART--
WAIT!

THAWNE'S LIGHTNING IS CORRUPTING ME. WE NEED TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE, MAX.

I CAN'T GET OUT, BARRY.

WHATE?

JAY HAS JOAN. WALLY HAS LINDA. YOU HAVE IRIS.

ALL THE SPEEDSTERS, WHEN THEY'RE PUSHED TO THE LIMITS--

"--THEY NEED A LIGHTNING ROD TO GROUND THEM."

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

3X219YZHA = ?

3X219YZHA = ?

3X219YZHA = ?

WHAT HAPPENED?

AS SOON AS HER FATHER FADED AWAY, SHE STARTED SAYING HIS SPEED FORMULA OVER AND OVER.

HELP'S COMING. JUST HOLD ON, JESS. HOLD ON FOR ME, BABE.

I NEVER HAD AN ANCHOR, AND JOHNNY LOST LIBBY. THAT'S WHY NEITHER OF US COULD ESCAPE, BUT YOU--

I CAN'T RUN OUT OF HERE, MAX. I'M CUT OFF FROM THE SPEED FORCE.

NO, YOU'RE NOT. YOU'RE NOT LIKE THE REST OF US, BARRY.

YOU'RE LIKE THAWNE.







ZOOM.

BOOOOMMM

I HEAR A NOISE
LIKE POPCORN.

AND
BARRY SAID
I HAVE AN
EGO.

I NEVER HAD
PARADES.

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MAX IS BEING BROKEN DOWN
ONE ATOM AT A TIME.

EVERYONE'S SAID HOW VOLATILE
THE SPEED FORCE CAN BE.

AND I'VE BEEN LETTING
IT CONTROL ME.

BUT IF I'M THE ENGINE FOR THE SPEED
FORCE, IF THE LIGHTNING COMES FROM ME...



KEEP AWAY
FROM ME, KID FLASH!
I'VE TURNED INTO A
HUMAN LIGHTNING
BOLT!



I NEED TO TURN
THIS ENGINE OVER.



COME ON,
BARRY! WHERE
ARE YOU?



CRAAAK



FWOSH



YOU'RE
BEHIND ALL
OF THIS, AREN'T
YOU? YOU HURT
BARRY.

I'VE HURT BARRY IN
MORE WAYS THAN YOU
COULD EVER IMAGINE,
MR. GARRICK.

HotComic.net

BUT
HERE'S A WAY
I HAVEN'T.

YOUR AURA
PROTECTS YOU
FROM FRICTION.
I CAN TAKE THAT
AWAY.



STOP!
LEAVE HIM
ALONE!



"A FIELD THAT EXTENDS
ACROSS TIME."

I'VE
BROKEN
THROUGH,
MAX...

...BUT THAWNE MUST BE
RUNNING. THE NEGATIVE
SPEED FORCE IS STILL
GROWING. I CAN'T GET
OUT--

BARRY!

WALLY?!
WALLY, IS
THAT YOU?

WALLY, IS
THAT YOU?

I'M HERE,
BARRY. I'M
BRINGING YOU
HOME.

YOUR MOTHER
MAY BE A THAWNE,
BUT YOUR FATHER
WAS AN ALLEN.

YOUR
BLOOD IS
POLLUTED.

LOOK ON
THE BRIGHT SIDE,
PROFESSOR PLUM.
WE'RE ONLY HALF
RELATED.

COME ON,
MAX. WE HAVE
TO GO.

I CAN'T...
CAN'T...



I WASN'T THERE FOR MY KIDS, MAX. FOR WALLY AND HIS. AND I WASN'T THERE FOR BART, BUT YOU WERE.

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU GAVE MY GRANDSON. AFTER EVERYTHING YOU SACRIFICED TO HELP HIM LEARN AND GROW. YOU'RE LIKE HIS FATHER, MAX. YOU'RE FAMILY.

AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M LEAVING FAMILY BEHIND.



SO COME ON. YOU STILL HAVE A LOT OF RACE TO RUN.



YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF STORM YOU CREATED FOR MY FAMILY.

YOUR VERY EXISTENCE DISGUSTS ME.



WHERE'S JOHNNY?

THAWNE. WALLY.

THAWNE?



THAWNE'S HERE.



KRAK KOOOMMM



THE PLEASURE
IS GOING TO BE
ALL OURS,
PROFESSOR.

MAX?!



YES.
I SEE IT NOW,
RICK.

JESSE?

3X2!9Y2!4!

I KNOW THE
ANSWER.

JESSE
QUICK.

MAX
MERCURY.



"JAY
GARRICK.



"WALLY
WEST.



"BART
ALLEN.



"BARRY
ALLEN."

I'M BACK,
THAWNE.

"THE SPEED
FORCE."

BUT THIS
TIME IT'S ON MY
TERMS.

GEOFF JOHNS *Writer* / ETHAN VAN SCIVER *Artist*

FLASH FACTS

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Hot Anime.net



GREETINGS DC NATION!

More everything is going well out there and that we're keeping you busy with all the awesome books that are coming out right now. I've gotta say that this is the best summer ever if you are a Green Lantern fan. Blackest Night has barely started, and Geoff Johns has so many twists and turns left that you're not gonna believe it. I know some of you fit fans might be looking for something to do in between multiple readings of Blackest Night #1, and boy, how I got the answer. After premiering at the San Diego Comic-Con, the animated movie GREEN LANTERN: FIRST FLIGHT comes out on DVD on July 28.

Green Lantern: First Flight has everything you'd want in a G.I. story: Hal Jordan.

Spectro, the Green Lantern Corps, Kilowog, Soodikka, Abin Sur, Tamar Re, the Guardians, Coast Patrol, the Weaponers and much more! These characters are brought to life by a stellar cast of voice actors including Christopher Meloni, Victor Garber, Tricia Helfer and Michael Madsen. Writer Alan Burnett, exec producer Bruce Timm, and show director Andrea Romano have produced some thrilling DCU projects in the past, and *First Flight* is no exception. Geoff Johns even makes a special appearance in the bonus material. Go sure to check it out and then we'll see you back here as *Blackest Night* kicks into full swing.

— Jon Scollar, Senior Staff Editor, DCU

D C N A T I N

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||| **WILLIAMS, JAMES** |||